

# The Semi-Weekly Messenger.

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\$1.00 PER YEAR

## OVER 550 PERSONS

Killed in Mine Explosion in West Virginia

## THE LATEST ESTIMATE

Twenty Five Bodies Recovered So Far

Scores of Other Victims in Sight of Rescuing Parties—Bodies Recovered are in Horrible Condition—People in Vicinity Dazed by Magnitude of the Disaster—Relief Funds Started for Widows and Orphans.

Monongah, W. Va., December 7.—At 9 o'clock tonight, a total of twenty-five bodies had been recovered from the mines Nos. 6 and 8 of the Fairmont Coal Company at Monongah. Scores of other victims were in sight of the rescuing parties and it was estimated that at least one hundred dead will be brought to the surface before daylight tomorrow. However, the number of bodies recovered tonight and early Sunday depends entirely upon the condition of the mine, it is said. Late today and tonight the deadly black damp became more pronounced as the further recesses of the mines were approached.

It was stated tonight by General Manager Leo L. Malone of the mines that 478 actual miners were checked off as entering the mines yesterday morning. This number, it was further stated, did not include fully one hundred trappers, mule drivers, pumpers and boys who are not under the check system. Should these figures be correct, the death list will be over 550 persons. The condition of the bodies thus far recovered is horrible. Many are dismembered and burned beyond recognition.

The accident, the greatest in the history of American mining, has dazed the people of this vicinity. Tonight the streets of both this town and Fairmont are crowded with people, while thousands line the hills in the vicinity of the mines. Every bar in Fairmont and Monongah is closed, notices on the doors announcing that the suspension is caused by the mine explosion and will last until Monday. There is both precaution and respect in the closing of the saloons.

Throughout the territory over sixty mines have suspended operations temporarily, and about 6,000 miners are visiting here and in Fairmont. Starting tomorrow morning, a new system of rescue work will be inaugurated at both mines. It is the intention to dispense with the services of the miners who have been employed in either of the mines. In their places there will be about 200 expert mining men from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, all of whom have volunteered.

These men, under the direction of Chief Mine Inspector J. W. Paull, of West Virginia, who arrived tonight from Charleston, will be more fitted to render effective service in the recognizing of the dead. The reason for this is the condition now existing in the mines are extremely dangerous and it is feared should inexperienced men make an incorrect move a second explosion would occur, which would completely wreck the mine.

It is estimated that 250 families are destitute. In many places relief funds have already been started for the widows and children. Tomorrow in all the churches of Fairmont, Clarksburg and Monongah special services will be held and it is probable collections will be taken. It is the purpose of the ministers to establish a permanent relief fund. A score of men of the rescuing parties are in a critical condition tonight from inhaling black damp. Several of them are expected to die. One of these, John Gabbert, was carried from the mine tonight almost a raving maniac. His lungs were filled with black damp, which produced a condition bordering on insanity, and the services of four men were necessary to hold Gabbert while doctor attended him.

Up to late tonight many entertained hopes that some of the entombed men would be taken from the mines alive. As the bodies recovered today, however, were brought to the surface, horribly mangled all hope was dispelled and distressing scenes followed. The walls of the foreign women, inexpressibly weired, were very pathetic and caused tears among many of the men. From forty to fifty per cent of the victims, it is estimated, are Americans. A majority of the bodies which have been recovered will be buried tomorrow. All day long men have been digging graves in the Catholic graveyard, located within sight of the mines.

## ALLOTMENTS OF BONDS

Merchants and Farmers National Bank of Charlotte Gets \$100,000

Washington, December 7.—Secretary Cortelyou today announced the allotments of Panama canal bonds sold to various national banks of the United States. The list of purchasers made public did not include individual buyers of the bonds, but merely the national banks which acquired the bonds for the purpose presumably of increasing their circulation.

The average price paid for the bonds was a small fraction over 103.

The highest price paid for any considerable amount was 105.875 for 60,000 of bonds by the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Onley, Virginia. The lowest price realized by the government for the bonds allotted was 102.125 and a considerable amount of the issue was allotted at that price.

The allotments were made in sums of \$10,000 and upward, hundreds of banks taking the bonds at their bids in sums up to several millions of dollars.

Among the banks to which were allotted bonds, and the price paid for them was the Merchants and Farmers National, of Charlotte, N. C., \$100,000 at \$103.25.

## LID ON IN KANSAS CITY

Vigorous Measures Taken to Enforce Sunday Closing Law.

Kansas City, Mo., December 7.—Drastic measures were taken today to enforce the Sunday closing law as a result of the recent campaign begun by Judge William H. Wallace of the criminal court. The grand jury indicted 223 traveling actors and employees of local theatres charged with violating the Missouri law forbidding labor on Sunday. Of this number, 141 were arrested and gave bond for \$200 each while the others evaded the officials and left the city without being apprehended.

The court room presented an unusual and almost ludicrous appearance when the persons arrested were lined up before Judge Wallace to give bond. Many of the actors went directly from the matinee performances to the court house and had not an opportunity to remove the paint from their faces. About one third of them were actresses, many of them chorus girls.

The attorneys for the theatres filed pleas in abatement and motions for a change of venue. When the prisoners refused to plead Judge Wallace entered a plea of not guilty for each one.

Among the actors arrested were Adolph Sink the Lithuanian comedian and Fiske O'Hara, the Irish comedian.

## Time and Place Chosen.

Washington, December 7.—Chicago was today selected as the place and June 16th, 1908 the time for the meeting of the next republican convention. This decision by the republican national committee followed a long and hard fought contest between the advocates of Chicago and those of Kansas City, Denver, Colorado, coming in at the end with a formal but not important effort to secure the convention.

The ballot showed 31 votes for Chicago 18 for Kansas City, and four for Denver, the vote being made unanimous after the result was announced.

All the southern delegates, except that of Alabama, supported Chicago, the latter voting for Kansas City.

After a long debate, the committee decided to authorize state and county committees to decide whether the election of delegates to the convention shall be by conventions or by primaries.

## "Blue Sunday" for New York

New York, December 7.—A "blue Sunday" is promised New Yorkers tomorrow. A literal enforcement of an old but not seriously regarded statute under a new interpretation, will deprive New York's millions of any form of public entertainment. Orders for a strict enforcement of Justice O'Gorman's recent decision in regard to the closing of all amusements on the Sabbath were issued today by Police Commissioner Bingham.

Lost Life in Attempt to Save Another  
Birmingham, Ala., December 7.—T. M. Hamlet of this city was fatally burned this afternoon while attempting to save the life of a Bulgarian workman. The Bulgarian's clothing caught fire and Hamlet ran to his assistance. His own clothing caught, but he continued in his efforts to save the Bulgarian. The latter was only slightly burned but Hamlet was seriously injured that he cannot recover.

## Battled With Waves.

New York, December 7.—After a rough passage of the storm-swept Atlantic, the White Star Celtic came into port today with two of her life boats stove in, the lashings of her after-most funnel wrenched from their fastenings and her superstructure showing visible evidence of constant battling with mountainous seas which piled over her bows and tore along her decks.

Toys and Christmas goods, wholesale and retail, best assortment, lowest prices at Rehder's.

## MOB CAPTURE TOWN

500 "Night Riders" March Into Hopkinsville, Ky.

## BURN THREE WAREHOUSES

Property Destroyed Valued at Over \$200,000

Windows in Front of Stores and banks Shot Out—Front of Newspaper Office Demolished—Public Buildings in Possession of Mob—Tobacco Buyer Severely Beaten—Battle Between Sheriff's Posse and Raiders.

Hopkinsville, Ky., December 7.—Five hundred "night riders" masked and heavily armed marched into Hopkinsville early today and destroyed property valued at \$200,000.

While citizens, in terror of their lives, feared even to open their windows. The police, fire department, telephone and telegraph offices, and even the railroad stations, were in possession of a wild mob shooting right and left, flames from burning buildings, meanwhile, lighting up the city and the surrounding country until it seemed that the whole town was ablaze.

Windows in the front of business houses and banks were shot out and the entire front of one newspaper which had been especially severe in its condemnations of the raids of the "night riders" and which was owned by the mayor of the city, was demolished.

Only two men were injured, one of them being Lindsay Mitchell, a tobacco buyer, who was severely beaten with switches and clubs and the other, a brakeman who was shot in the back while trying to move his train from the path of the flames.

The raid of the "night riders" caught the city unawares, as for some time the depredations resulting from the tobacco war had been of a minor nature and it was generally thought that in the "dark district" at least the worst was over.

The property destroyed was as follows:

W. H. Tandy, independent tobacco warehouse building, owned by J. H. Latham.

B. M. Woodridge, association warehouse.

Tandy and Fairleigh, buyer's warehouse.

In addition the entire glass front of the Hopkinsville Kentuckian, Mayor Meacham's paper was destroyed, while windows in the front of the Commercial Banking and Savings company, the First National, the Planters Trust company, and the Bank of Hopkinsville, were punctured with bullet holes.

A number of other business houses and residences bear the marks of bullets and it is considered remarkable that no one was killed. The insurance is believed to be about \$60,000.

As soon as the "night riders" left town a posse of about fifteen, headed by Major Bassett of the local militia, and Deputy Sheriff Cravens entered buggies and followed the trail. As soon as the posse could get near enough they opened fire on the fleeing mob and the pursued returned the shots. It is believed none of the "night riders" was hit.

The members of the posse escaped injury. They were soon outdistanced by the mounted men and after chasing the marauders past Gracey, the officers returned home.

News was later received from all parts of the town indicating the spread of the raid of the "riders."

There was hardly a house in the business section of the city which did not suffer.

Just why no damage was done by the "night riders" to the Imperial Snuff company warehouses is not known. They probably contained more stock than any other house.

At the intersection of the citizens who were being guarded on a street corner, the invaders, during the raid allowed the fire department to leave their building to save property adjacent to the burning buildings. Had it not been that no wind was blowing and that the firemen and citizens worked so well the entire city might have been destroyed.

The girls in the telephone office were forced by 15 men to leave their switchboards until the mob was ready to depart from town.

Arrived in Leaking Condition  
Anthus, December 7.—The Danish steamer Nordvalen, from Galveston, via Norfolk for this port arrived today in a leaky condition, having grounded. The cargo is damaged.

Go to Rehder's for everything.

## DURHAM NEXT YEAR FINISHED ITS WORK FUN AT BANQUET

Meeting Place of N. C. Conference

## REPORTS OF THE BOARDS

Appointments Will Probably be Read Out Tonight

Rev J. N. Cole Again Named as Superintendent of the Orphanage—Report on Committee on Temperance—Dr. T. N. Ivey Remains Editor of the Advocate—Work of the Greensboro Female College—Proceedings of the Fourth Day.

## BY C. W. HUNT

Newbern, N. C., Dec. 7.—The fourth day's session of the Methodist conference convened at 9:30 with Bishop Galloway in the chair. Religious service was led by Dr. Nash. The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved. H. M. Cure was granted leave of absence.

The work of reporting was then taken up, and one board after another reported till the whole number were in and the business of the work of the session in a manner closed.

The orphanage board reported, naming J. N. Cole as superintendent, and J. N. Cole, E. J. Parish, W. T. Boyd, B. B. Adams, Q. K. Nimocks, S. C. Vann, J. S. Wynne, R. W. Price and J. G. Brown trustees for three years from 1908.

Dr. Potter of the American Bible Society, addressed the conference in the interest of Bible work.

Judge Neal read a report of the committee on temperance which recommended the fighting of the liquor traffic, till it was out of the state. This was not strong enough for Rev. D. H. Tuttle and others and after considerable debate, the words "and for state prohibition" were added.

What caused the debate was the uncertain wording allying the conference with all things professing to be for prohibition.

The report of the committee of books and periodicals, recommended the election of T. N. Ivey as editor again and the further strengthening of the Advocate.

Drs. Cole and Kilgo spoke of Dr. Ivey's work on the Advocate.

Question forty-five was called "Where shall the next conference be held?"

Trinity church, Durham, was the unanimous choice of the body.

Mrs. Lucy H. Robertson spoke to the conference on the work of the Greensboro Female College.

The Sunday school board wanted a man appointed as organizer for the board.

Bishop Galloway said that he had great respect for the wishes of the board, but that his first duty was to the pastor and this work was a part of the pastor and the presiding elders work. It was left to the bishop, there being no other way, and he said that the Methodist church paid more for supervision than any two other denominations.

The afternoon session opened at 3 o'clock with Dr. J. C. Kilgo in the chair, religious service being led by M. D. Giles.

Most of the time was given to the reports of the boards and introduction of resolutions.

Mr. T. Plyler offered a resolution regretting that the motto, "In God We Trust" had been removed from the gold ten dollar coin, and memorializing congress to enact law to restore it.

After much discussion and a slight change it was adopted with three dissenting votes.

The proceedings of the evening session were read and all work closed up except the reading of the appointments which will most likely take place Sunday night. All churches open will be filled tomorrow by Methodist ministers.

At 7:30 p. m. Dr. E. F. Cook of Nashville, spoke on missions.

## CONFERENCE HISTORY.

This body is the old original Methodist conference of the state, it having given off the western North Carolina conference in 1890, and at that time its membership was reduced by nearly forty thousand. Since then it has climbed from 52,000 to 71,000. The last time the body met with these good people, in 1900, Bishop H. C. Morrison, who was at the western conference two weeks ago, presided.

Rivers and Harbors Congress Adjourned Yesterday

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Congress Asked to appropriate \$50,000,000 Annually

Government Urged to Adopt a Wise Liberal and Comprehensive Waterway Policy—Action of President Roosevelt Endorsed—Congress Urged to Enact Laws Making Inland Waterways Commission permanent.

Washington, Dec. 6.—An annual appropriation of at least \$50,000,000 for the improvement and development of the internal waterways of America is the gist of the recommendations of the Rivers and Harbors congress which concluded its sessions here today.

At the opening of today's session of the convention telegrams were read by Senator Perkins from industrial organizations and commercial bodies of California, inviting the congress to hold its next annual meeting in San Francisco.

Colonel J. E. Ellyson, secretary of the congress, presented his annual report, in which he gave the expenditures on behalf of the work of the congress during the past year. The balance on hand he said, was \$2,272.

The report included the following resolutions:

Be it resolved by the national rivers and harbors congress, at the present session containing delegates of every shade of opinion and representing every business interest in the land, standing for a policy, for a project.

1. That we earnestly urge the adoption by the federal government of a wise, liberal and comprehensive waterway policy that will provide for the proper improvement with the next ten years, of the rivers, waterways and harbors of the country which is justified by present and prospective benefits to commerce.

2. That without presuming to prescribe the engineering or the financial details of the great undertaking this congress strongly urges upon the congress of the United States the importance of the immediate adoption of a comprehensive plan of waterway improvement of the carrying on of the work by an adequate number of engineers and of such liberal appropriations annually as will insure the early completion of such projects as may be undertaken.

3. That we cordially endorse the action of President Roosevelt in appointing a special inland waterways commission it being evident that its report would prove a series of accurate and valued information to the American people. We further recommend that congress enact such laws as will make the inland waterways commission permanent and will provide it with necessary authority for its investigations and recommendations.

4. That this congress cordially thanks President Roosevelt for the support he has given to its purposes, by his speeches and by his treatment of the subject in his recent message.

5. That we ask congress to view the river waterway and harbor appropriations not as the appropriation of money for the current expenses of government, but as an investment in permanent improvements bound to pay increasing dividends from year to year. Viewing these appropriations in this light, congress is fully warranted in authorizing an annual expenditure beginning at the present session, of not less than one-tenth of the amount required for all the various river, waterway and harbor improvements already planned and approved in order, engineers in charge or planned that work may be carried on to speedy completion, such appropriation to be not less than \$50,000,000 annually and congress is further warranted in authorizing the expenditure of the money as needed and in providing for the same, if in excess of funds available by a bond issue similar in character to that for the building of the Panama canal, whereby part of the cost of these vast improvements will be spread over a succession of years and borne by all who reap the benefits.

In the closing hour of the congress brief addresses were delivered by representatives of various state delegations, each accentuating the work of the organization and pointing out how it might be improved and extended.

At 6 o'clock the congress adjourned.

Gridiron Club Gives Famous Entertainment

200 GUESTS PRESENT

All Roasted in Manner Peculiar to Organization

Every Moment Filled With Jest, Song and Satire—Vice President Fairbanks Allowed Ration of Butter-milk—A Class in Nature Faking. Other Features of the Evening.

Washington, December 7.—The Gridiron Club began tonight its winter series of fun-making dinners by a lively entertainment of 200 men prominent in politics, diplomacy and business. There was not a moment without a jest, song or satire that did not hold up for the merriment of all some one of the guests present.

To begin with when President Samuel Blithe lit up the huge electric gridiron in the spacious and sumptuously appointed banquet hall of the Willard Hotel, the absence of the preliminary cocktail was emphasized. Vice President Fairbanks bore the brunt of this stunt, for in front of him stepped an Indiana dinner where cocktails were served with subsequent regrets. Mr. Fairbanks was then allowed a ration of buttermilk. A class in nature-faking, through questions and answers, developed a logical connection with "octopus" and Wall street. Also that if it is true that money talks "President Roosevelt must be the richest man in the world."

"John Barrett ain't broke," remarked one of the class. The story that George Washington threw a dollar across the Potomac was declared not to be a nature fake because Secretary Cortelyou had thrown \$20,000,000 to Wall street. A song which put Secretary Cortelyou in the attitude of quietly waiting to be called to the presidency, brought laughter, likewise a response from the secretary.

"Why are the ships going to the Pacific?" was answered in many ways, chief among which was to seat Secretary in the senate. A Japanese wrestler, a game of dice and an aggregation of "undesirable citizens," were all aimed at the white house, and were productive of much merriment. The new state of Oklahoma made its appearance with democratic senators and representatives and an electoral vote for Bryan. Chairman New of the republican national committee was required to "think it over." And then pranced in on hobby-horses a squad of equestrian-tested army officers.

"We will drink to the next president of the United States," solemnly announced President Blithe, after he had got to their feet Vice-President Fairbanks, Speaker Cannon, Secretary Cortelyou and Senator Knox. Then was sung a ditty which conjured with the names of all the presidential possibilities. A song followed which gave great admiration to the versatility of Ambassador Bryce, but kindly warned him that with it all he would be found wanting unless he learned the presidential game of tennis.

Another song told that Johnson, Minnesota's democratic governor, had met Bryan face to face, and therefore he no longer had a presidential boom.

The menu souvenir was a collection of clearing house certificates, issued by authority of the Gridiron Clearing House Association. There was a certificate for each course and each set forth a bit of humor. The initiation as a member of the club of James P. Hornaday, was also made a matter of entertainment.

Aged Woman Burned to Death  
Macon, Ga., December 7.—Mrs. Francis E. Crossell, aged 61, was burned to death here today while along with her grandchild. Neighbors heard the child cry and in entering found Mrs. Crossell on the floor burned to a crisp. The child was on the bed burned slightly. It is believed it fell in the fire and the grandmother lost her life in rescuing it.

Five Italians Arrested  
New Orleans, December 7.—Five Italians were arrested today charged with the attempted dynamiting of a store on Claiborne avenue. Several skeletons and quantities of ammunition were found in their possession. The arrests are the result of several weeks work by a vigilant committee of prominent Italians.

Death of Mother of Secretary Taft.  
Milbury, Mass., December 8.—Mrs. Louisa M. Taft, mother of secretary of war, William H. Taft, died at 12:20 a. m.

Go to Rehder's for everything.